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October 24, 1988

Ms. Janet Feldstein
Project Manager, Site Compliance Branch
U.S. EPA
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Mr. James Schmidtberger
U.S. EPA - Region II
Site Compliance Branch
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Re: SCP/Carlstadt

Dear Ms. Feldstein and Mr. Schmidtberger:

This letter responds to Jim's letter of September 29, 1988 referencing the September 20, 1988 meeting of U.S. EPA, NJDEP and the SCP/Carlstadt PRP Group Technical Committee.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Agency and believe the open discussion benefited all those present. We believe that the process of completing the RI/FS would benefit greatly by regularly scheduled meetings between EPA, NJDEP and our lead technical committee members. Please let me know whether this can be arranged.

At the September 20, 1988 meeting, all parties agreed that more information was needed before an appropriate on-site Feasibility Study could be completed. U.S. EPA and NJDEP agreed that preparation of the on-site FS should be postponed until the additional essential data were obtained.

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The PRPs agreed to provide to EPA revised POP-8 and POP-9 addressing offsite groundwater wells and the bedrock well, respectively, by Friday, September 30, 1988. That submittal was made in a timely fashion.

The cooperating PRPs also agreed to provide to EPA by October 4, 1988, a list of the studies believed by Dames & Moore to be necessary to obtain the additional data essential to development of the on-site FS. That, too, was submitted to EPA within the agreed timeframe.

It was further agreed that detailed work plans would be developed and submitted for those projects included in the October 4 list that did not have working plans previously submitted. The recollection of both the Technical Committee members and the Dames & Moore representatives who attended that September 20 meeting is that as many of the work plans as possible would be submitted by October 14 recognizing that some would be submitted at a later date. At present, only two work plans are anticipated to be submitted after the 14th: 1) on-site pilot scale ground water treatment facility; and 2) bench scale testing of soil treatment technologies.

In your letter you state that "EPA clearly indicated that any proposals submitted after the initial submittal (October 4) will not be considered." We have no recollection of the Agency flatly precluding any further proposals. To the contrary, we would expect the Agency's support for additional work if, in the course of the planned investigations, a clear need for some additional item were revealed. Should the studies proposed in our September 30 and October 4 communications disclose some unusual, unanticipated or unexplainable condition, the resolution of which would be crucial to completion of the on-site FS, the PRP Group reserves the right to submit proposals for such studies as would be needed to obtain the necessary data. It is our sincere belief that EPA will not automatically preclude such additional studies merely because the need for them is not known at the present time. Rather, we expect the Agency to consider any such subsequent proposals in an objective and scientifically sound manner.

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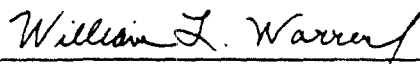
We appreciate the concern that further studies not delay progress at the site. I want to make clear to you that we have no intention of embarking on additional studies merely to delay the process.

During the meeting you expressed interest in an immediate, short-term remedy or operable unit. The Technical Committee and its consultant currently are evaluating operable unit concepts. Several of the projects proposed are integral to completing this evaluation.

Finally, a crucial understanding was reached at the September 20 meeting which is not mentioned in your letter. It was mutually agreed that the FS would not have to address remediation of the clay layer if it demonstrated to EPA's satisfaction that applicable ARARs can be met in the bedrock aquifer without remediation of the clay. That agreement by EPA is understandably important to the PRP Group, and we restate it herein expressly so that there will be no misunderstanding in the future.

We look forward to continuing discussion and more frequent meetings as the RI/FS process proceeds. Please call me at your earliest convenience if you have any differences of opinion regarding the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,



William L. Warren
On behalf of the SCP
Carlstadt PRP Group
Technical Committee

/da
SEH-0568
cc: James Rooney, Esq.
Mr. Kevin Schick, NJDEP
Ms. Pam Lange, NJDEP
SCP/Carlstadt Technical Committee
Dames & Moore

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